(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 3746/93].

REPORT AND MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SHRI SOM PAL (Uttar Pradesh) : I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Tenth Report of the Committee on Agriculture on 'Analysis of Price Situation of Agricultural Commodities—A Comparative Study'—Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

REPORT AND MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar) : I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the First Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on Department of Electronics—Imports and Indigenisation—and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES BILL, 1993 SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha :

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1993, agreed without any amendment to the National Commission for Backward Classes Bill, 1993, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd March, 1993."

MOTIONS RE. SIXTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA (Maharashtra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I say anything else I would like to tell, as the hon. Members are aware, that the House considered and adopted the Fifth Report of the Committee on Rules on the 20th August, 1992 which provided for the constitution of three Committees on Human Resource Development, Industry and Labour. Before these Committees could be constituted, the Committee on Rules was seized with another proposal for setting up departmentally-related Standing Committees. After a great deal of deliberations, the Committee on Rules has recommended that these should be parliamentary Standing Committees related to Ministries or Departments. Committees on six of these Departments, namely, Commerce, Home Affairs, Human Resource Development, Industry, Science and Technology, Environment and Forests and Transport and Tourism will be chaired by the Members of this House and the remaining Committees will be chaired by the Members of the other House. This is a welcome change. As the Committees will provide a wide spectrum of discussion on a variety of issues, I hope the hon. Members who do not get an opportunity of participating in various discussions in the House will now get an opportunity of making a significant contribution through these Committees. Copies of the Report have already been circulated to the Members while the details of composition and functions etc. have been set out in the proposed rules. Nevertheless I may mention that each of these Committees will consist of 45 Members,15 from this House and 30 from the other House, and among the Committees to be chaired by the

Members of the other House, a new Committee on Labour and Welfare is being proposed. This necessitated minor changes among the existing Committees and the related Ministries in Part II of the proposed Third Schedule.

Accordingly, I move :

"That the Sixth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March 1993, be taken into consideration."

I also move :

"That this House agrees with the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March, 1993, with the following amendments in Part—II of the proposed Third Schedule, namely :—

(i) *for*

'7. Committee on Agriculture	(1) Agriculture (2) Water Resources (3) Food Processing (4) Food'

substitute

'7. Committee on Agriculture	(1) Agriculture (2) Water Resources (3) Food Processing'

(ii) *for*

'13. Committee on Labour, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	(1) Labour (2) Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution'

substitute

'13. Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	(1) Food (2) Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Distribution'

(iii) After Serial No. 13 *insert* the following :—

'14. Committee on Labour and Welfare	(1) Labour (2) Welfare'

(iv) The existing Serial No. 14, 15, and 16 be *renumbered* as Serial Nos. 15, 16 and 17 respectively.

(v) *for*

'16. Committee on Welfare, Urban and Rural Development	(1) Welfare (2) Urban Development (3) Rural Development'

substitute

'17. Committee on Urban and Rural Development	(1) Urban Development (2) Rural Development'

Thank you, Sir.

The questions were proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, anybody desiring to speak may do so.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Sir, I want to speak. I will not take more than a minute.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Sir, I want to say something...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, I will take a minute only...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, I am not starting any discussion. Only one point

I would like to raise. This has been circulated only today, that is, the Report of the Rules Committee which was tabled on the 24th of March 1993 in this House. The Members got it only today. The amendments proposed by the honourable Member, Shrimati Heptulla, who happens to be the Deputy Chairman of this House and who also just now read them out, it seems, propose wide changes in the system. So, my submission is that instead of taking this up immediately for consideration and passing them, let the Members be given some more time to read them ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Yes, let the Members be given more time... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I also support him. We should have some time to study them... (*Interruptions*)... We should be given time to study them before we discuss them ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, the Report of the Committee has been laid on the Table of the House. The Members should have more time... (*Interruptions*)... There is a lot of overlapping and some Ministries have been added. Therefore, we would like to have a thorough discussion on this. So, some more time must be given to the Members ... (*Interruptions*)...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Sir, I would like to tell the honourable Members that it is the Rules Committee which considered these Rules. Several meetings had taken place where deliberations were held, extended deliberations were held, not by the Rules Committee, but also by the various leaders of the political parties and groups and their opinions were taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : By the General Purposes Committee also.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Yes. They met subsequently and also there were certain amendments which were made and which were explained to the Members. After that, their amendments and some of the amendments and suggestions made were considered by the Rajya Sabha Rules Committee and the Lok Sabha Rules Committee and, after a very great deliberation, we have come before this House to present this Report. I would, therefore, request the honourable Members to adopt this. This is a new system and we are getting into a new system and it is in the spirit of it that the House should pass it unanimously, because all the Members will have better opportunities for making their contribution and, subsequently, after its working, if they still feel that there is need for some more improvements, it can be taken up at that stage. So, I would request the Members through you, Sir, to adopt this motion unanimously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I should also like to appeal to the House. As a matter of fact, there has been a great deal of discussion. And, I think, most Members are aware of it. So, let us not insist on a sheer formality but go on with the substantive motion.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, I give a small example. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, there is an additional reason why this must be accepted unanimously. For the first time, the Deputy Chairman replied to the points made by the Members. So, we cannot disoblige her.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, I would like to make one point as an example. Sir, Labour and Welfare have been clubbed together. It would be appropriate if Labour and Industry are clubbed together as both are correlated. But Welfare has been clubbed with Labour. Sir, this is not going to serve any purpose. Therefore, Sir, we have to apply our minds. The Members should be given an opportunity to discuss it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is one view only. The hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Sir, I would like to clarify that we have met in the Rules Committee of this House. Our Rules Committee had met and we had made certain recommendations to the Lok Sabha Committee to consider. We wanted some changes. They were considered.

A joint meeting of the Rules Committee of the two Houses was held, Sir, under your and the hon. Speaker's joint Chairmanship when we discussed all this. Ultimately, they agreed to the amendments which we had suggested and, therefore, there was an understanding and it was finally accepted by the Rules Committees of both the Houses. Sir, therefore, I would request that we accept now the final recommendation. If we have any differences later on, they can be ammended as we go along. But let us not now go in for a discussion and further debate.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, nobody is opposing the acceptance of the Motion. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you please bear with me for a minute. Nobody is opposed to the adoption of this Motion. Nobody is also saying that it should not be unanimous. But the question is this. It is true that the Rules Committee had discussed it, the General Purposes Committee discussed it, and the Leaders have discussed it. But, yet, it is also true that it was not discussed on the floor of the Parliament. When the rules are going to be changed with a wider ramification...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would say...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : ...at least, the Members should be given a chance to go through the Motion.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : ये कमेंटियां प्रथम बार एक्सपैरिमेंट के तौर पर हैं तो इस एक्सपैरीमेंट को जारी किया जाना चाहिए । इसमें विलम्ब न करें । यदि विलम्ब करेंगे तो पहली अप्रैल से जो शुरू करना चाहते हैं, वह नहीं हो पायेगा और अगले साल के लिए चले जाएंगे । अगर इस एक्सपैरीमेंट में कुछ परिवर्तन करना होगा तो अगले साल कर सकते हैं ।

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Sir there is enough provision...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I should like to appeal to the House.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Sir, please give me one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, it is a right of the House to discuss, if you insist on it. But, this matter has been discussed. Lok Sabha has no problem like this. Let this House not create a problem for postponing it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Sir, may I say a word ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If any amendment has to be made, the House will have the opportunity to make the amendment.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA : Sir, there is a provision in the Schedule and the Rules that later on if the Members find any difficulty, it can be considered. But now let the Committees start functioning in a good spirit.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka) : Sir, I have a point to make... (*Interruptions*)...Sir, these were circulated only on the 27th. We were not here. We were busy elsewhere. We have not been able to look into this. We are only asking for an opportunity to go through the reports and apply our mind and discuss this. We are only seeking that opportunity. We are not against the proposal. But before accepting the proposal, we want to have a thorough study and discussion because there is going to be a new system. Why to accept now and come with an amendment later on ? Let us be given an opportunity to discuss it.

AN HON. MEMBER : Where is the time ?

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : I think, this is a historic decision which was taken by the Rules Committees of both the Houses where,

Sir, you were pleased to preside over the meeting. We are going to start in a big way, and it is going to be inaugurated in a day or two, I am told. If we are to lag behind and not go with the Lok Sabha, it might be that it would create a problem. Most of the issues have been discussed. There is nothing new. The only point is that some Members would like to have the satisfaction that they also participated in the discussion, because in the Rules Committee, all of them were not there. I think it will be in the fitness of things if we adopt it now and later on if we find with our experience that some changes are necessary, we can consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope the House will agree to what the Leader of the House has said. If you don't accept it now, you will not be able to discuss the Budget in the Committees.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya) : I propose that we accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you wish, I can put it to vote.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : We agree, Sir.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh) : One minute, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is a disagreement in the House in this way, then I am going to put it to vote.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : There is absolutely no disagreement on this issue. I would only like to make a submission. This matter was previously discussed in the General Purposes Committee. Later on, two or three meetings of the Rules Committee were held. Now, instead of having a quarrel on whether we wanted to say something or not, let us all agree to adopt this motion. If there are some minor or small issues, they can be taken up later on. I appeal to all friends to agree to adopt it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the motions to vote.

The question is :

"That the Sixth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March, 1993, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That House agrees with the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee on Rules presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March 1993 with the following amendments in Part II of the proposed Third Schedule namely :—

(i)

for

'7. Committee on Agriculture	(1) Agriculture (2) Water Resources (3) Food Processing (4) Food'

substitute

'7. Committee on Agriculture	(1) Agriculture (2) Wate r Resources (3) Food Processing

for

(ii) '13. Committee on Labour Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	(1) Labour (2) Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution'

substitute

'13. Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	(1) Food (2) Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution,

(iii) After Serial No. 13 *insert* the following :—

'14. Committee on Labour and Welfare	(1) Labour (2) Welfare

(iv) The existing Serial Nos. 14, 15 and 16 be *renumbered* as Serial Nos. 15, 16 and 17 respectively.

(v) *for*

'16. Committee on Welfare, Urban and Rural Development	(1) Welfare (2) Urban Development (3) Rural Development'

substitute

'17. Committee on Urban and Rural Development	(1) Urban Development (2) Rural Development' "

The motion was adopted.

(**The Deputy Chairman** *in the Chair*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, there is a Bill for introduction.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat) : The entire nation knows through the media whatever we discuss in the House. But whatever we discuss in the Committees.... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, please. I have some legislative business first. There is a Bill for introduction. Let me clear it. Let it be introduced first. Then whatever hurts your mind and the heart, can be heard. Let me finish it first.

THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra) : Privilege question first.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes.

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आज जिस विषय पर विशेषाधिकार हनन का मामला उठाना चाहता हूं, मुझे आशा है कि सारा का सारा सदन इसे समर्थन देगा । आज प्रातःकाल जब मैंने इंडियन एक्सप्रेस पढ़ा तो उसमें एक लेटर टू एडीटर कालम होता है उसमें एक वौक्स आइटम बनाकर, चौखट बनाकर, एक समाचार छपा है ।

"वलगर डिक्लेयरर" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत, जिस समाचार के कारण सारे सदन की गरिमा को ठेस पहुंची है, पूरे हिन्दुस्तान के केन्द्रीय मंत्रि-परिषद् के व्यवहार के संबंध में एक प्रश्न-चिह्न लगा दिया है और हमारी जो भी महिला मंत्री हैं, इन मंत्रियों के लिये यह समाचार प्रकाशित होने के पश्चात् जो भी पढ़ेगा, एक बहुत बरा असर होगा, यह इस प्रकार का समाचार है । मैं आशा करता हूं कि यह सत्य नहीं होगा । कोई मंत्री इस